

and Illinois, have enacted legislation in their last session that provided for premarital AIDS testing. Three states, and in the survey, every state that was...nearly every state that was in session this year has examined premarital AIDS testing. So it is an issue, it is a national issue, and it is an issue that three other states have adopted that particular approach. Now let's look at cost, because that was the primary motivation for me getting involved in this issue. What does it cost the state? What does it cost society for each individual that is an AIDS victim? The figures are approximately \$125,000 per person, \$125,000 per person for the AIDS virus. Now there is no cure at this time for that particular disease but that is what it costs to take care of them, hospitalize them until their most probable death. I think it is a small price to pay, and I think if you provide for an ounce of prevention, it can be worth a pound of cure, and if you have one child that is born in the State of Nebraska with this particular problem, and an AIDS virus carrier, then I feel that would be one child too many. Now let me stress again that this is a situation where it will not state whether an individual has tested positive or negative, just that they have gone through the test. Now if that individual is tested positive, there is a good chance that that individual will have to go back for another test at an additional cost, and possibly another cost, but at least that individual can make a decision, not so much whether those two individuals choose to get married, but more importantly, the question should be, will those individuals then decide to have a child or not to have a child, to bring a child into this world with a 50 percent chance of that individual child having the AIDS virus? I feel it is a small price to pay. The State of Nebraska has adopted this approach in the past. It is an epidemic, and, as I stated earlier on this bill on General File, LB 1012 in its present form is a good first step, but it is only that. It provides for education and counseling, but it does not provide the second needed step. Though it is a small portion of the total amount of individuals that currently have this type of virus, I think it is a step in the right direction. I would urge the adoption of this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, then Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I would rise in strong opposition to this amendment. It runs counter to a lot of what we are trying to accomplish with the bill.